

Nov 5th

I am a TOTAL Q Citizen
Very concerned ^{2731 '00 JUN -6 #153} about the
use of ANTIBIOTICS, not only
in animal feed to promote
growth but also in humans.
Too late we are realizing
what a mistake it is to
use antibiotics routinely &
liberally. I am sure you
are working on this. I urge
you to persist

Respectfully
Naomi W. Doan



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Drug-resistant salmonella raises animal-feed warning

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An outbreak of severe, drug-resistant salmonella infections in 27 people in Denmark was traced to meat from infected pigs. American scientists say it is a warning of what could happen in the United States unless steps are taken to limit the use of antibiotics in farm animals.

The episode in Denmark, in which 11 people were hospitalized and two of them died, is especially worrisome because the bacteria had made them partly resistant to a class of antibiotics called fluoroquinolones.

Doctors had considered fluoroquinolones one of their most powerful weapons against severe cases of salmonella and other bacteria that infect the intestinal tract. If those bacteria invade the bloodstream, which occurs in 3 percent to 10 percent of salmo-

nella cases, the illness can be fatal.

Fluoroquinolones are the most recently approved class of antibiotics; nothing comparable is expected to become available for several years.

Salmonella that are resistant to fluoroquinolones have not been detected in the United States although they have turned up in Britain, France and Germany, as well as Denmark.

But, "resistance is a global issue," said Dr. Stephen F. Sundlof, director of the center for veterinary medicine at the Food and Drug Administration, which regulates the use of antibiotics in livestock and poultry.

Fluoroquinolones are used in Denmark to treat some illnesses in pigs, and the Danish researchers who studied the outbreak suggested that such use might have fostered the growth of resis-

tant bacteria, which then entered the food supply. The outbreak, which occurred last year, is being reported today in The New England Journal of Medicine.

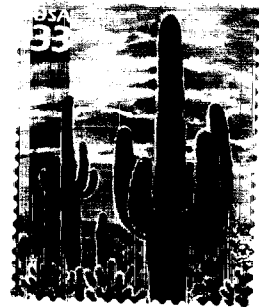
"It potentially has an impact on everybody because of the global nature of trade in foodstuffs, or people carrying organisms into other countries," Sundlof said.

Giving fluoroquinolones to pigs is not permitted in the United States, but the drugs are used to treat sick cows on an individual basis, and they are given in drinking water to entire flocks of 20,000 to 40,000 chickens or turkeys if any bird appears ill.

Concerned that the use of antibiotics in livestock may be contributing to the emergence of resistant bacteria, the Food and Drug Administration is revising guidelines for the use of the drugs in animals.



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